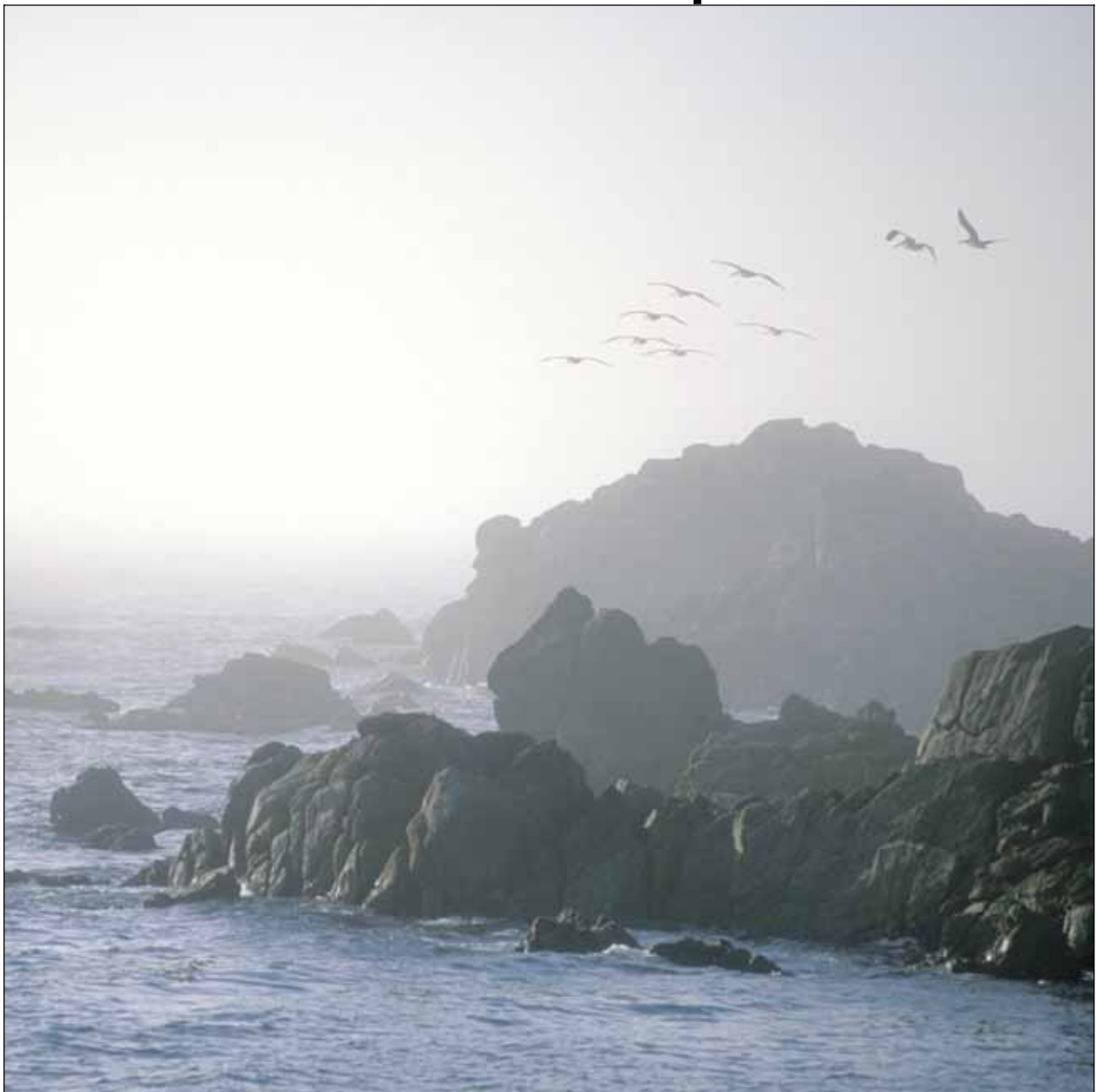


# Executive Summary

---

## **California Coastal National Monument Draft Resource Management Plan/ Draft Environmental Impact Statement**



ES.1	Introduction .....	ES-1
ES.2	Background.....	ES-2
ES.3	Purpose and Need.....	ES-3
ES.4	Issues .....	ES-4
	ES.4.1 Visual Resources .....	ES-4
	ES.4.2 Geologic, Soil, and Paleontologic Resources .....	ES-4
	ES.4.3 Wildlife Resources .....	ES-5
	ES.4.4 Vegetation Resources.....	ES-5
	ES.4.5 Cultural Resources .....	ES-5
	ES.4.6 Recreation.....	ES-6
	ES.4.7 Education and Interpretation .....	ES-6
	ES.4.8 Research.....	ES-6
	ES.4.9 Special Designations .....	ES-7
	ES.4.10 Land Tenure.....	ES-7
	ES.4.11 Land Use Authorizations .....	ES-7
	ES.4.12 Cadastral Support .....	ES-7
	ES.4.13 Issues Not Addressed in the RMP .....	ES-7
ES.5	Alternatives .....	ES-8
	ES.5.1 No Action Alternative .....	ES-8
	ES.5.2 Action Alternatives .....	ES-9
ES.6	Public Involvement.....	ES-14

# Executive Summary

## ES.1 Introduction

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared this Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) to provide direction for managing the public lands contained within the California Coastal National Monument (CCNM). The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which is incorporated into this document, describes the potential environmental effects of alternative management strategies. This summary provides:

- The background that has led BLM to prepare the Resource Management Plan (RMP)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this very unique national monument,
- A description of the issues that are addressed in the RMP/EIS,
- A listing and a comparison of alternative management strategies BLM is considering, and
- The public involvement that has carried BLM to this place in the planning process.

The CCNM RMP is not a traditional BLM RMP because of the unique physical conditions of the land within the monument and the specific direction for management contained in the Presidential Proclamation that established the monument. The rocks and small islands along California's coast have been withheld from most land uses by BLM since 1983, and from mineral exploration and recovery since 1930. The land does not support grazing, timber harvesting, or off-highway vehicle activity, and none of the land is being considered for disposal. The Presidential Proclamation emphasizes that the principal function of BLM management for this area is to protect the natural and cultural resources of the rocks and islands. At this point in the public review process for the RMP, there has been no public controversy over this limited-use management direction.

Given these circumstances and the lack of a previous comprehensive plan for managing the rocks and islands, this RMP is establishing a framework for implementing the protections identified in the Presidential Proclamation. More specific management direction will be developed as more is learned about the monument's resources through inventory and the BLM undertakes an adaptive management approach on the CCNM.

---

The monument consists of about 1,000 acres of rocks and islands that stand above mean high tide, within a vast 14,600-square-nautical-mile segment of the Pacific Ocean's continental shelf.

---

## ES.2 Background

The CCNM is a part of the recently established National Landscape Conservation System and is among the Nation's most unique national monuments. It is also one of the most frequently viewed landscapes in the nation, as millions of Californians and visitors from other states and countries visit the California coast to enjoy the scenic beauty, the wildlife, and the crashing waves that accompany its rocks and islands. The CCNM was established on January 11, 2000, by Presidential Proclamation under the authority of the Antiquities Act of 1906. The monument consists of more than 20,000 rocks and small islands that are spread along the entire length of the 1,100-mile California coastline, from Mexico to the Oregon border. The monument does not include any of California's mainland but consists of about 1,000 acres of rocks and islands that stand above mean high tide, within a vast 14,600-square-nautical-mile segment of the Pacific Ocean's continental shelf. Its unique location and physical conditions have created an irreplaceable array of fragile ecosystems and their component biological, physical, and cultural resources.



The rocks and islands of the CCNM are public lands<sup>1</sup> owned by the United States that are administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the BLM. These lands are, or have been at one time, public domain lands<sup>2</sup> as a result of California being ceded to the United States in 1848 and have been under the administration of BLM and its predecessor agency, the U.S. General Land Office. Minimal management activity has been necessary over the past 150 years, and no comprehensive management plan has been developed for the rocks and islands. Development of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in 1983 between BLM and the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) gave DFG authority to manage the rocks and islands for the benefit of its wildlife resources. This MOU was expanded in 2000 to include the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) in the cooperative management of the rocks and islands.

In 1988, the California Fish and Game Commission designated the rocks and islands within one-half mile of the coast as the California Offshore Rocks and Pinnacles Ecological Reserve. This designation was made under the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 14. State regulations for this designation are contained in Section 630 of Title 14.

---

<sup>1</sup> "Public lands" are any land and interest in land owned by the United States that are administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the BLM, without regard to how the United States acquired ownership. The two categories of public lands include (1) public domain lands, and (2) acquired lands (i.e., lands in federal ownership that were obtained by the U.S. Government through purchase, condemnation, gift, donation, or exchange).

<sup>2</sup> "Public domain lands" are the original public domain lands that have never left federal ownership. The term "original public domain lands" embraces all the area to which title was vested in the U.S. Government by virtue of its sovereignty. All of what is now California (including all of the coastal rocks and islands), except for the Spanish and Mexican land grants and private land claims recognized by the U.S. Government, were once original public domain lands as a result of the United States acquiring the land through cession from Mexico in 1848, following war with Mexico. At least one CCNM islet has gone out of Federal ownership and, therefore, out of the category of public domain lands; this area has been reacquired by the BLM, and thus is back in the public lands but now under the category of acquired lands.

The increasing pressure on coastal resources due to California's population growth, increasing levels of coastal activity, and presence of wildlife species with very restricted habitat availability were among the reasons cited for designation of the rocks and islands as a monument in 2000. This designation heightens awareness of the national value of the resources and provides BLM a mechanism to better coordinate federal, state, and local management activities. Many of the regulations needed to manage the resources are already in place; therefore, this plan is not proposing any new regulations, nor does it alter the management jurisdictions that already exist along the coast.

California's mainland, adjacent to the CCNM's rocks and islands, lies within the jurisdiction of five BLM field offices, 15 coastal counties, and dozens of local communities. Approximately 25 percent of this coastline is contained within state park units administered by DPR. Multiple other federal, state, and local jurisdictions and regulatory authorities influence access to, use of, and protection for the resources of the CCNM. This multitude of government agencies and public interest groups that have high interest in the California coast provides a vast array of partnership opportunities for BLM as it manages the CCNM. The presence of these varied jurisdictions has played a key role in development of a management strategy for the monument.

The RMP was prepared using BLM's planning regulations and guidance issued under the authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). An EIS is incorporated into this document to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations 1500-1508), and the requirements of BLM's NEPA Handbook 1790-1.

---

California's mainland, adjacent to the CCNM's rocks and islands, lies within the jurisdiction of five BLM field offices, 15 coastal counties, and dozens of local communities.

---

## ES.3 Purpose and Need

The purpose of the RMP for the CCNM is to establish guidance, objectives, policies, and management actions for the lands of the CCNM. The RMP identifies and attempts to resolve a wide range of resource and land use issues through a series of long- and short-term management practices that can be cooperatively pursued by BLM and its core managing partners, DPR and DFG. The RMP also identifies management actions that can be taken by a much broader group of partner agencies and entities with stewardship or regulatory interests in California's coast. The RMP is not intended to supersede or materially modify current or future uses of the adjacent lands, water, or air that are managed by other entities and are subject to existing law and regulation. The purpose of the EIS is to comply with NEPA and provide BLM, its core managing partners, and the public information that will contribute to a full understanding of the potential impacts of any proposed management options on the environment and on user groups.

---

The purpose of the RMP for the CCNM is to establish guidance, objectives, policies, and management actions for the lands of the CCNM.

---

## ES.4 Issues

BLM has participated in an extensive dialogue regarding coastal issues with its managing partners, potential partners, and the public-at-large.

BLM has participated in an extensive dialogue regarding coastal issues with its managing partners, potential partners, and the public-at-large through meetings, distribution of printed media, and electronic communications. This dialogue has allowed BLM to identify key resource and land use issues that must be addressed in the CCNM RMP. The central planning issues of this RMP are described below; those issues that are not considered in the RMP are also listed.

The central planning issues described below are centered around five management questions that were raised in the public scoping process and the initial phases of impact evaluation. These questions are:

- How will the plan contribute to protection of biological resources?
- How will the plan contribute to protection of geologic, cultural, and visual resources?
- How will BLM coordinate its CCNM planning and management activities to be consistent with the numerous jurisdictions that have existing plans and policies associated with the coastal zone?
- What programs, facilities, infrastructure, and partnerships are needed to provide the public with interpretive and educational material regarding the values and significance of the CCNM?
- How will people's activities and uses along the coast be affected by management of the CCNM?

### RESOURCES AND USES TO BE MANAGED UNDER THE RMP

- Visual Resources
- Geologic, Soil, and Paleontologic Resources
- Wildlife Resources
- Vegetation Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Recreation
- Education and Interpretation
- Research
- Special Designations
- Land Tenure
- Land Use Authorizations
- Cadastral Support

### ES.4.1 Visual Resources

The islands and rocks of the CCNM represent a key visual element of the landscape, defining the scenic coastline for which California is known. Millions of visitors are exposed to this scenic landscape every year, as people are drawn to the coast for its open vistas, variety of resources, and recreational opportunities. The RMP will ensure that future uses of the rocks and islands will not degrade or in any way substantially modify views of California's coastal landscape.

### ES.4.2 Geologic, Soil, and Paleontologic Resources

Because the rocks and islands of the CCNM have been removed from mineral exploration and recovery since 1930, and most other forms of use since 1983, threats to the physical properties of the rocks and islands are primarily from natural processes (erosion and wave action). CCNM lands have been set aside for long-term protection because they are representative of the diverse geologic and geomorphic features

that extend the 1,100-mile length of the California coast. The principal RMP actions for these resources include further research and interpretation so that the nature of the resources is better understood.

### ES.4.3 Wildlife Resources

The seabirds and marine mammals that inhabit California's coastal rocks and islands are among the principal resources for which the CCNM was created. The rocks and small islands are important habitat for some marine bird and mammal populations that may have been displaced from mainland beaches, rocks, and cliffs because of human activity and introduced predators. The lands of the CCNM also act as a migration resting point for species that travel the coast annually. The RMP proposes focused protection actions on the rocks and islands known to harbor populations of nesting seabirds, as well as seals and sea lions, while a coordinated, comprehensive site characterization can be completed to determine the full range of wildlife use throughout the monument. These actions will be closely coordinated with DFG and its Marine Life Protection Act plans, DPR, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Service staff, as BLM jurisdiction does not extend to the ocean and land surrounding the coastal rocks and islands. Invasive species control, educational programs, and seasonal access restrictions in some locations may be used by BLM and its core managing partners to protect sensitive populations. These protections can be accomplished under existing regulatory authority and ongoing management practices.



### ES.4.4 Vegetation Resources



There is little information available to characterize the terrestrial and intertidal vegetation on the monument, and vegetation resources are not conspicuous because few of the islands support soils. Nevertheless, the plant populations on these offshore rocks and islands may have significant research value as remnants of vegetation that existed on the mainland of California prior to human activity. The CCNM management plan proposes inventory of resources and research as priority actions. In the interim, BLM, in coordination with its core managing partners, will manage activities on the rocks and islands to avoid damage to vegetation, and will also develop an invasive species control plan.

### ES.4.5 Cultural Resources

California's offshore rocks and islands have been used by humans for thousands of years. Native populations have used them for resource procurement, including seaweed and shell fish gathering, sea lion hunting, and fishing; food processing; temporary landing; storage of hunting and fishing equipment; landmarks; and territorial boundaries. Some of the rocks and islands also play a role in local Native American mythology and cosmology. European settlers have used the coastal rocks as docking sites,



hunting grounds, and navigational aids. The RMP proposes focused monitoring and protective actions for known significant cultural resources and preparation of a Cultural Resources Management Plan. It also encourages research to determine the presence of additional resources. Continued Native American use for traditional cultural practices is recognized and supported.

#### **ES.4.6 Recreation**

California's coastline provides one of the Nation's most popular and scenic recreation opportunities. The coastline is dotted with public access points and state and federal parklands. With the increasing population of the United States and the state of California, recreation activity on the coast is expected to increase significantly. The RMP proposes to encourage recreation pursuits in the vicinity of CCNM rocks and islands that do not disturb wildlife (such as wildlife viewing, photography, and painting). The plan prohibits camping, use of fire, off-highway vehicle use, most forms of shooting, competitive events, and rock climbing on the CCNM; and provides appropriate access for visitors while ensuring that sensitive resources are fully protected.



#### **ES.4.7 Education and Interpretation**

There are currently no significant education or interpretation programs in effect for the CCNM. BLM intends to develop an education and interpretation plan in concert with its core managing partners, and to identify and implement innovative and cost-effective mechanisms for the plan's initiation. The focus of the program will be to inform the public of the values associated with the CCNM and to foster a protective approach to coastal activities. BLM intends to identify and develop a number of points of visitor contact along the coast to host its educational and interpretive programs; these would be located on BLM and DPR lands or lands of other partners. DPR intends to develop, to the extent funds and resources are available, a number of locations for distance learning about the CCNM with its Park Online Resources for Teachers and Students (PORTS) Program. This program can link professional DPR and BLM staff with school curriculum and students in classrooms in the California educational system.

#### **ES.4.8 Research**

A multitude of public and private research institutions on the California coast focus their studies on the marine environment. BLM will use its coordination capabilities and its education and outreach program to encourage research that might be beneficial to an understanding of CCNM resources. BLM will also encourage research institutions to address key resource management issues important to the long-term survival of CCNM biological resources. BLM intends to play a coordination role in California coastal research, as its CCNM jurisdiction spans the entire length of the state. BLM also will work with DFG to develop a single permit that covers requests for research and scientific collecting on CCNM lands.



## ES.4.9 Special Designations

The rocks and islands of the CCNM are currently designated as a BLM Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). This designation was made in 1990 to reflect the land's status as the California Rocks and Islands Wildlife Sanctuary. While the rocks and islands are no longer a wildlife sanctuary, the plan would retain the ACEC designation. The name of the ACEC would be changed to the California Coastal ACEC. The rocks and islands also remain a state Ecological Reserve. No additional special designations are anticipated in the plan.

## ES.4.10 Land Tenure

The CCNM includes over 20,000 small islands and rocks along the California coast, but there are additional coastal rocks and islands that have been transferred to other agencies and private entities over the past 150 years. The RMP proposes development of criteria to evaluate land tenure changes, including acquisition of additional rocks and small islands where the acquisition would further the monument's purpose of protecting sensitive coastal biological, cultural, and geologic resources. Land would be disposed of only through exchange, and only when it would further the protective purposes of the monument.

## ES.4.11 Land Use Authorizations

There are few land uses that have been authorized by BLM on the rocks and islands of the CCNM. The principal uses are for navigation and communication aids. Under the proposed RMP, additional uses would be authorized only if they did not conflict with the protection of monument resources. Authorizations would be made in cooperation with the BLM core managing partners. A number of uses would be excluded from the monument, including forest resource extraction, off-highway vehicle use and livestock grazing.

## ES.4.12 Cadastral Support

Many of the rocks and islands within the CCNM are not surveyed and are not accurately mapped. The RMP proposes preparation of a survey strategy and a survey of all rocks and islands that are acquired or disposed of in the future. This effort would improve BLM's understanding of the geographic extent of its land use decisions within the CCNM.



## ES.4.13 Issues Not Addressed in the RMP

Because of the unique nature and location of the CCNM, and restrictions contained in the Presidential Proclamation that established the monument, this RMP does not address the following resource and land use issues:

- Wild horses and burros,
- Fire management,

- Forestry,
- Livestock grazing,
- Coal and oil shale,
- Fluid minerals,
- Locatable minerals,
- Mineral materials, or
- Non-energy leasable minerals.

## ES.5 Alternatives

BLM has used the interactions of its staff and communications with a broad array of other agencies and entities to develop approaches to solving resource and use issues that exist on and adjacent to the CCNM. Four distinctive management strategies have emerged from these discussions. The strategies, or alternatives, are briefly described below; the descriptions emphasize the principal differences in resource outcomes that the alternatives would likely cause.

---

**CCNM's Mission:** To protect and foster an appreciation for and a stewardship of California's unique coastal resources in and around the monument through cooperation, collaboration, and partnerships.

---

Each of the alternatives, including a continuation of current management practices (No Action), has the same principal goal, which is dictated by the Presidential Proclamation and emphasized in the management mission. This goal is to protect the physical, biological and cultural resources that are present on the rocks and islands of the California coast. The alternatives that propose a change in current management practices (Alternatives A, B, and C) seek to achieve this principal goal through slightly different emphasis on resource protection, education and research, and recreation support.

### ES.5.1 No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative corresponds to current management as established by existing laws, regulations, and management directives to guide daily management activities. The principal sources of present management guidance include the Presidential Proclamation, the BLM/DFG/DPR MOU, and the existing federal ACEC and state Ecological Reserve designations. These directives emphasize the protection of the rocks and islands for their unique biological, cultural, and geologic values. Most of the day-to-day protective actions will continue to be taken by DFG staff, in reaction to individual incidents. Due to staffing limitations and a lack of comprehensive management guidance, there is limited consistency in management actions between the various regions of the coast, and there is no information being collected that indicates the effectiveness of the management actions.

## ES.5.2 Action Alternatives

### *MANAGEMENT APPROACHES COMMON TO ALL ACTION ALTERNATIVES*

#### *Overall Vision*

The CCNM RMP is a catalyst for protecting and fostering an appreciation and stewardship for coastal ecosystems and their biological, physical, and cultural components by bringing together communities, agencies, organizations, academic institutions, the public, and other stakeholders. This broad management vision, included in all three action alternatives described below, has been generated to deal with the geographic expanse of the CCNM and the large number of agencies and public entities that have interest in and responsibility for the fragile California coast.

#### MAJOR MANAGEMENT ELEMENTS

- Protection
- Research
- Education
- Planning

#### *Key Aspects and Focus of the Management Approach to the CCNM*

To accomplish the above vision, attention will be paid to three equally important aspects of the CCNM—Preservation, Landscape, and Partnerships. Figure ES-1 summarizes the key aspects and focus of the management approach to the CCNM.

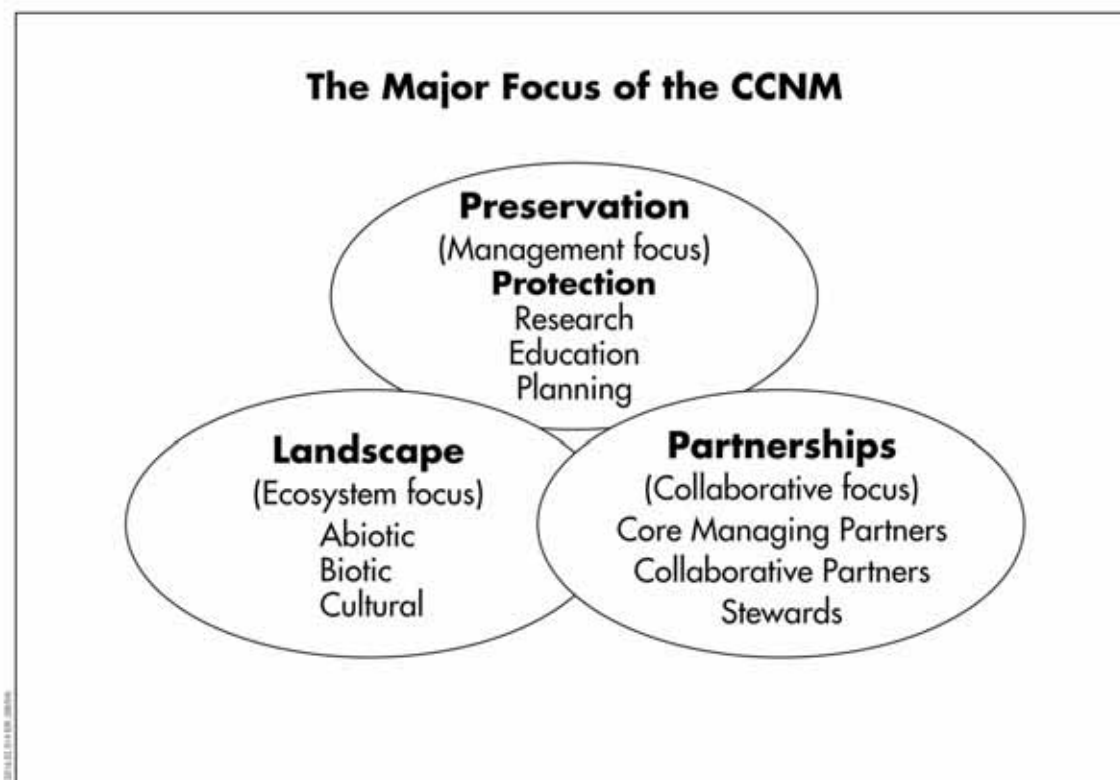


Figure ES-1  
Key Aspects and Focus of the Management Approach to the CCNM

## PRESERVATION (MANAGEMENT FOCUS)

Preservation is the primary management focus for the CCNM. This focus applies directly to the more than 20,000 rocks and small islands that make up the CCNM (i.e., the portion above mean high tide). Four major elements constitute this management focus: protection, research, education, and planning. These themes and their interrelationships are described below.

### PROTECTION

As directed by the Presidential Proclamation that established the CCNM, the primary reason for establishing the monument is the protection of rocks and islands and their geologic, biological, and cultural resources and related values. For this reason, other management priorities as established by BLM's multiple-use mandate under FLPMA have been determined to be secondary to this purpose.



### RESEARCH

Research and scientific monitoring are critical elements in management of the CCNM, as they are the first steps to more clearly understanding the significance and extent of the resources that the CCNM is intended to protect. BLM intends to encourage and coordinate research related to the coast and ocean interface (i.e., the sea-land interface).

### EDUCATION

The educational element in the RMP includes a continual effort to increase public awareness of the CCNM; a linking of CCNM education efforts with the numerous education initiatives that already exist for California's coastal resources; and a reliance on existing and future partnerships, infrastructure, and cost-sharing opportunities to sustain the educational message.

### PLANNING

BLM and its partners are dedicated to making the coordination of multiple coastal plans that exist in California a priority in their CCNM management approach. The management strategy of the CCNM does not include development of another layer of bureaucracy for coastal management. Instead, the strategy focuses on coordination of the many programs and processes already in place that have been designed to protect California's coastal and marine resources. To this end, management actions to implement this RMP would be linked with those developed by DFG through its Marine Life Protection Act planning process.

## LANDSCAPE (ECOSYSTEM FOCUS)



Landscape is the ecosystem focus of the CCNM. This element focuses on the ecosystem, which includes more than 14,600 square nautical miles, within which the CCNM is located (i.e., from the mean high tide line out 12 nautical miles along the entire 1,100 miles of the California coastline, from the Oregon border to the border with Mexico). As stated in the Presidential Proclamation that established the monument, the CCNM contains “irreplaceable scientific values vital to protecting the fragile ecosystems of the California coastline.” It is the landscape aspect that connects the CCNM with the various ecosystems of which its rocks and small islands are an important part, and links the CCNM with the many jurisdictions and management responsibilities that together ensure the proper management and longer-term protection

of the California coastal and marine resources and values. This landscape also links the CCNM with its current and future partners, as well as with the public. Finally, it is this landscape that provides the opportunity for using the CCNM as a focal point for the “sea-land connection” that can help to link the coastal initiatives with the marine initiatives.

To provide a complete ecological perspective to the landscape aspects of the CCNM and effectively manage the monument, all three of the basic dimensions of an ecosystem—physical, biological, and sociocultural—need to be taken into account. Working to understand the interconnectedness of all three of these dimensions and to continue to apply our growing knowledge of this interconnection will be key to successfully managing the CCNM. Anything in the landscape can be placed within one of these three ecosystem dimensions. Each of these ecosystem dimensions (based on Manley et al. 1995) is briefly discussed as follows:

### PHYSICAL (ABIOTIC)

The physical dimension is made up of all of the non-organic, abiotic elements of an ecosystem. This consists of the non-living material components of the environment, such as rocks, water, and air— and can include the topography, geology, climate, nutrients, and hydrology.

### BIOLOGICAL (BIOTIC)

The biological dimension is made up of all the living or biotic elements of an ecosystem. This includes all plants and animals, as well as involving food webs, microbes, and diseases.

### SOCIOCULTURAL (CULTURAL)

The sociocultural dimension consists of those elements of an ecosystem dealing with the origin, development, organization, and functioning of human societies and cultures. This includes all human-made modifications of the environment—current and past—and involves land uses, economics, beliefs, lifestyles, and social groups.

---

## PARTNERSHIPS

**Core Managing Partners.** BLM, DFG, and DPR serve as CCNM's core managing partners.

**Collaborative Partners.** Collaborative partners will serve to help implement various aspects of resource programs related to the monument.

**Stewards.** Stewards will be select entities with ownership or management responsibility for a specific portion of the coast that adjoins part of the CCNM.

---

### PARTNERSHIPS (COLLABORATIVE FOCUS)

Partnerships provide the collaboration focus for the CCNM. As mentioned above, the CCNM is located adjacent to or embedded within many jurisdictions, including lands and waters reserved, owned, or administered by the U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Coast Guard, National Park Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, DPR, DFG, and California State Lands Commission; private landholdings; 15 coastal counties; and numerous local municipalities. With this myriad of adjacent and overlapping responsibilities, BLM intends to continue with existing partnerships and develop new partnerships to share some of the management responsibilities. Three basic partnership categories have been established for this RMP: core managing partners, collaborative partners, and stewards.

#### CORE MANAGING PARTNERS

BLM, DFG, and DPR serve as CCNM's core managing partners. These agencies have the day-to-day management responsibility for the entire CCNM. Through the interim MOU signed in spring 2000, BLM extended its partnership with DFG and added DPR, the state agency that administers 25 percent of the California coast.

#### COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS

Collaborative partners will serve to help implement various aspects of resource programs related to the monument. Most of the partnerships related to the CCNM will fall into this category. Collaborative partnerships will be developed with a wide variety of governmental, tribal, and private agencies and entities. These partners have specific interests or responsibilities that, when linked with the CCNM, enhance the monument's purpose and the purpose of the collaborative partner.

#### STEWARDS

Stewards will be select entities with ownership or management responsibility for a specific portion of the coast that adjoins part of the CCNM. These partners will agree to serve as stewards for that portion of the CCNM. Stewards will support resource inventory and monitoring, education and interpretation, and resource protection.

---

## DESCRIPTION OF ACTION ALTERNATIVES

**Alternative A (Balanced Management).** Includes a balance of management strategies between better-coordinated resource protection (focused on seabirds and marine mammals), support for low-impact recreation, and the need for further research. This is the preferred alternative.

**Alternative B (Resource Protection Emphasis).** Emphasizes strict natural and cultural resource protection across the entire CCNM, with recreation opportunities provided primarily through the use of state and local government facilities; emphasizes research that enhances resource protection.

**Alternative C (Recreation Opportunity Emphasis).** Promotes a greater variety of active recreation on and adjacent to the CCNM, and active interpretation and environmental education programs.

---

### *ALTERNATIVE A (BALANCED MANAGEMENT)*

Alternative A proposes to achieve the RMP's resource protection goal with a balance in objectives:

- Emphasizes protection of seabirds and marine mammals.
- Supports low-impact recreation ("appreciate from afar").
- Encourages a broad range of research activities on the entire monument.

The management approach of Alternative A would balance strategies between better-coordinated resource protection, low-impact recreation, and the need for further research to support informed land use decisions on the CCNM. In most resource/use program areas, site-specific management directives are not identified at this time; rather, resource uses, including recreation opportunities, would be provided to the extent that they do not adversely affect CCNM resources. Overall guidance for future research and educational programs is given, but specific locations for implementation of these programs are not identified. This is the preferred alternative.



### *ALTERNATIVE B (RESOURCE PROTECTION EMPHASIS)*

Alternative B proposes to achieve resource protection by focusing all major objectives of the management plan on protective actions. The major objectives are:

- Emphasizes protection of all natural and cultural resource values.
- Coastal recreation opportunities would be provided primarily through state and local government facilities.
- Emphasizes research to enhance resource protection.



Under this alternative, the entire CCONM would be managed for maximum protection of resources. Further research would be conducted to support refinement of management zones in the future, to the extent that these activities would not affect monument resources. Educational and interpretive activities would emphasize protective actions. Associated programs would be implemented at a larger number of locations on the coast, to maximize awareness of CCONM resources and their unique value. Recreation opportunities along the coast would continue to be provided primarily through the use of existing state and local government facilities.

### ***ALTERNATIVE C (RECREATION OPPORTUNITY EMPHASIS)***

Alternative C proposes to provide resource protection by pursuing the following objectives:

- Promotes a greater variety of recreation opportunities and experiences (e.g., guided tours and kayaking trails).
- Resource protection is focused on known and probable sensitive sites.
- Supports an active interpretation program and research with a focus on human activity along coast.

Alternative C focuses on the provision of active recreation opportunities on and adjacent to the monument wherever they would be protective of resource values. The plan provides for an active interpretation program at selected locations in support of the recreation opportunities. Resource protection focuses on known and suspected sensitive sites.



### ***ALTERNATIVES COMPARISON***

In general, all action alternatives would result in beneficial effects of varying degrees. Alternative B, by providing the greatest amount of immediate protection to CCONM resources, would result in the greatest level of beneficial effects. Alternatives A and C would result in more moderate beneficial effects. The No Action Alternative would leave management attention on the monument at current levels. Most management actions would be undertaken by DFG, based on case-by-case needs.

## **ES.6 Public Involvement**

As indicated earlier, this RMP planning process and BLM's decision-making process are guided by the requirements of NEPA, CEQ regulations, and directives from the Department of the Interior and BLM. All of these guidance directives require a significant public involvement program to support the planning process. The public involvement program for the CCONM RMP was initiated through scoping meetings in coastal communities and is continuing through public release of this Draft RMP and Draft EIS.

The public was initially notified of the CCNM planning process through publication of a Federal Register notice on April 24, 2002. This notice was followed by an announcement of scoping meetings. The announcement was sent to over 450 individuals, organizations, Native American groups and government agencies. A news release regarding scoping was forwarded to over 500 media outlets in the 15 California coastal counties. The public scoping period extended from April 24, 2002, to October 25, 2002.

BLM contacted and established local sponsors for each of its scoping meetings in an effort to heighten local awareness of the opportunity for public involvement. The locations, dates, and local sponsors for the scoping meetings are as follows:

- Bodega Bay, August 20, 2002 – sponsored by the Bodega Bay Marine Laboratory, University of California, Davis;
- Elk, August 21, 2002 – sponsored by Elk Business Association;
- Trinidad, August 22, 2002 – sponsored by Trinidad Chamber of Commerce;
- San Diego, August 27, 2002 – sponsored by Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego;
- Laguna Beach, August 28, 2002 – sponsored by Surfrider Foundation, Laguna Beach Chapter;
- Santa Barbara, August 30, 2002 – sponsored by Santa Barbara Maritime Museum;
- Monterey, September 4, 2002 – sponsored by Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary; and
- San Francisco, September 5, 2002 – sponsored by Golden Gate National Recreation Area, National Park Service.

During the scoping process, BLM contacted 46 federal and state agencies, counties, and tribes to solicit interest in participating in the RMP NEPA process as cooperating agencies. So far, three entities have become cooperators in the NEPA process, including DFG, DPR, and the Trinidad Ranchería (a federally recognized tribe).

Since the close of the official scoping period, BLM has maintained open channels of communication with agencies and the public through posting of a scoping report, a management situation analysis, and progress notes and updates on the CCNM web site, at [http://www.ca.blm.gov/pa/coastal\\_monument](http://www.ca.blm.gov/pa/coastal_monument). An agency working group has also been established that has allowed more than 20 interested entities to participate in periodic planning meetings and provide input into the plan development process.

Following release of this Draft RMP/Draft EIS, BLM will continue its public involvement program. Six public meetings will be conducted to receive comments on the draft documents. These meetings will occur in late September or October 2004 and are tentatively planned to be in the cities of Trinidad, Elk, San Francisco, Monterey, Long Beach, and San Diego, California. The public is encouraged to continue to follow the progress of CCNM planning through accessing the monument web site or by contacting the monument manager at the following address:

Rick Hanks  
CCNM Manager  
U.S. Bureau of Land Management  
299 Foam Street  
Monterey, CA 93940  
831/372-6115

